

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph located on page 13, line 27, and continuing through page 14, line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 4 illustrates the splicing of two compressed bitstreams received by network device 20 in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Splicing (also known as bitstream concatenation) is a process that replaces part of a digital compressed bitstream by another compressed bitstream, which may have been encoded off-line in a different location or at a different time. Splicing includes a series of transitions made between a first bitstream and a second bitstream. Each transition is called a splice point. Splicing is a well-known practice in the art and not described in detail for sake of brevity. Suitable splicing techniques for compressed bitstream splicing are described in commonly owned U.S. Patent Application 08,173,708 09/173,708 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,611,624), which is incorporated herein for all purposes.